

Amendments to Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic polyamide composition comprising: (a) from about 5 to about 30 weight percent of a free-flowing toughener comprising from about 20 weight percent to about 95 weight percent polyvinyl butyral; (b) 95 to 25 weight percent polyamide that is melt processible below about 320°C and which has a number average molecular weight of at least 5,000; (c) a mineral filler in an amount of from about 10 to about 45 weight percent of the total composition; and (d) optionally a coupling agent.

2. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the toughener comprises one or more polymers having anhydride functionality ~~and~~ or one or more polymers having carboxylic acid functionality.

3. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the toughener additionally comprises a non-reactive polymer.

4. (Original) The composition of Claim 3 wherein the non-reactive polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinylchloride, nylon, olefinic copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

5. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the filler is a mineral selected from the group consisting of calcined clay, metal carbonates, titanium dioxide, wollastonite, or talc.

6. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 1 comprising the coupling agent wherein the coupling agent is an aminosilane compound and is included in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 1 wt%.

7. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polyamide is selected from the group consisting of Nylon 6; Nylon 11; Nylon 12; Nylon 66; Nylon 6, 10; Nylon 12, 12; and copolymers of epsilon-caprolactam with hexamethylenediamine and adipic acid.

8. (Original) An article prepared from the composition of Claim 1.

9. (Original) The article of Claim 8 wherein the article is selected from articles in the group consisting of: toys; furniture; cars; trains; automobiles; appliances; boats; acoustic tiles; acoustic flooring; walls; ceilings; roofs; and, roofing materials.

10. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 2 wherein the filler is a mineral selected from the group consisting of calcined clay, metal carbonates, titanium dioxide, wollastonite, or talc.

11. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 4 wherein the filler is a mineral selected from the group consisting of calcined clay, metal carbonates, titanium dioxide, wollastonite, or talc.

12. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 6 wherein the filler is a mineral selected from the group consisting of calcined clay, metal carbonates, titanium dioxide, wollastonite, or talc.

13. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 7 wherein the filler is a mineral selected from the group consisting of calcined clay, metal carbonates, titanium dioxide, wollastonite, or talc.

14. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 11 wherein the polyamide is selected from the group consisting of Nylon 6; Nylon 11; Nylon 12; Nylon 66; Nylon 6, 10; Nylon 12, 12; and copolymers of epsilon-caprolactam with hexamethylenediamine and adipic acid.

15. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 12 wherein the polyamide is selected from the group consisting of Nylon 6; Nylon 11; Nylon 12; Nylon 66; Nylon 6, 10; Nylon 12, 12; and copolymers of epsilon-caprolactam with hexamethylenediamine and adipic acid.

16. (Previously Presented) An article prepared from the composition of Claim 2.

17. (Previously Presented) An article prepared from the composition of Claim 5.

18. (Previously Presented) An article prepared from the composition of Claim 14.
19. (Previously Presented) An article prepared from the composition of Claim 15.
20. (Previously Presented) The article of Claim 8 wherein the article is selected from articles in the group consisting of: toys; furniture; cars; trains; automobiles; appliances; boats; acoustic tiles; acoustic flooring; walls; ceilings; roofs; and, roofing materials.
21. (New) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the toughener comprises one or more polymers having anhydride functionality.